



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Ted Stewart  
Executive Director

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*File  
James Folmer  
5/019/030*

August 8, 1996

Ann Vileisis  
P.O. Box 155  
Jensen, Utah 84035

Dear Ms. Vileisis:

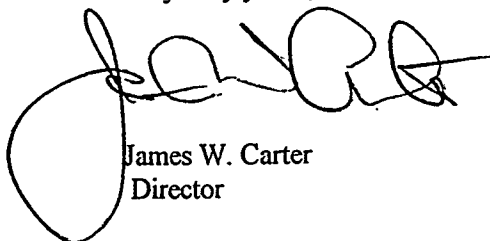
Governor Leavitt has asked me to respond to your letter of June 20, 1996 regarding proposed mining activities in Westwater Canyon. The designation of portions of Westwater Canyon of the Colorado River as a Wild and Scenic River requires that any proposed mining activity be planned carefully and conducted in a manner which does not adversely affect the attributes of the area which support its wild and scenic status.

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining does have on file a Notice to Conduct Small Mining Activities, file S/019/030, which allows the operator to conduct mining activities which disturb fewer than five acres of land, with the concurrence of the land managing agency. The Bureau of Land Management has not yet given its concurrence, and I understand that it is evaluating the impacts of both the proposed mining activities and access to the area. If mining occurs, the operator will be required to reclaim the affected areas.

We are aware that placer gravels along the Colorado River have been established as hosts for gold for nearly a century. However, we are not aware that any operator has established the presence of metal values high enough to warrant economic mining activities. We are also not aware of any economic lode deposits in the Westwater area.

I would encourage you to contact the Moab District of the Bureau of Land Management to voice your concerns with regard to land use and management decisions affecting the Westwater Canyon area. If I can provide you with more information of the permitting and reclamation requirements of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Program, please call either me at 538-5326 or Lowell Braxton, Deputy Director at 538-5370.

Very truly yours,



James W. Carter  
Director

vb

cc: Governor Michael O. Leavitt  
Ted Stewart, DNR

VILEISIS.LTR

